

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCI-06 NASA-04 /067 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:DPASSAGE;SAFGC:DFEDWARDS:GJG

APPROVED BY PM/ISO:JRDEWENTER

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R 261606Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

OSD/ISA/FMRA

OSAF SAFIA

AFSCF LOS ANGELES AFS

CSAF

DET 4 AFSCF MAHE IS SEYCHELLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037955

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR/XO

SUBJECT: AREAS FOR TRACKING STATION FACILITIES IN
SEYCHELLES

1. HMG AGREED, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE 30 DECEMBER 1966 AGREEMENT COVERING ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRACKING STATION ON THE ISLAND OF MAHE (TIAS 6197), TO PROVIDE AGREED SITES, RIGHTS OF WAY, AND EASEMENTS FOR USE BY THE USG IN OPERATING THAT TRACKING STATION. OVER THE YEARS, SUFFICIENT AREAS HAVE IN FACT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE LOCALLY AS REQUIREMENTS HAVE ARISEN.

2. PARAGRAPH 19 OF THE 1966 AGREEMENT AUTHORIZES THE CONCLUSION OF "SUPPLEMENTARY ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE APPROPRIATE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH AUTHORITIES" TO
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CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSES. ACTING UNDER THIS AUTHORITY

AND RECOGNIZING THE DESIRABILITY OF CONSOLIDATING IN ONE DOCUMENT THE BOUNDARIES AND TERMS OF USE OF THE AREAS ALREADY PROVIDED, THE USAF, THROUGH THE TRACKING STATION COMMANDER, HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING THE TERMS OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF THE SEYCHELLES, J. R. TODD. THESE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH HAD BEEN PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY, HAVE NOW BEEN SUSPENDED BY TODD, WHO HAS REFERRED A BASIC QUESTION OF THE FCO FOR RESOLUTION.

3. TODD HAS TAKEN ISSUE WITH THE USAF POSITION THAT THE MOU IS BEING NEGOTIATED PURSUANT TO PARA 19 OF THE 1966 US-UK AGREEMENT AND THAT AREAS DESCRIBED IN THE MOU HAVE BEEN PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THAT AGREEMENT. TODD MAINTAINS THAT A MAJORITY OF THE AREAS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY THE GOS, IN CONTRADICTION TO HMG, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE 1966 AGREEMENT AND THAT HE NEITHER HAS NOR HAD THE AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE THEM ON BEHALF OF HMG UNDER THE 1966 AGREEMENT. HE, THEREFORE, HAS DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE MOU FURTHER UNTIL THE FCO PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON HIS AUTHORITY AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF HMG.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY CONTACT FCO AND SEEK ITS SUPPORT FOR USG POSITION THAT GOVERNOR OF SEYCHELLES AND HIS REPRESENTATIVES ARE "APPROPRIATE BRITISH AUTHORITIES" WHO MAY MAKE "SUPPLEMENTARY ARRANGEMENTS" WITH USAF REPRESENTATIVES UNDER PARAGRAPH 19 OF THE 1966 AGREEMENT, TO CARRY OUT PURPOSES OF THE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF SITES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS POSITION, SITES ACQUIRED FOR THE STATION OVER THE YEARS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY HMG UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT AND NOT RPT NOT ON SOME AD HOC BASIS BY THE GOS. CASEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, AGREEMENTS, TRACKING STATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE037955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DPASSAGE;SAFGC:DFEDWARDS:GJG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974028/aaaaahkm.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AREAS FOR TRACKING STATION FACILITIES IN SEYCHELLES
TAGS: MARR, XO
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005